

Differences Between HTML and PDF Viewing

Section 35.93 (3) (b), stats., requires the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to include in the electronically–published Wisconsin administrative code, “all permanent rules in force, except that the legislative reference bureau may omit tables and graphic images from publication in a particular electronic file format if the legislative reference bureau determines that the tables and graphic images are incompatible with that electronic file format.”

The Wisconsin Administrative Code presented in PDF format files on this website is an exact reproduction both as to content and format of the LRB computer files used to create, maintain, and store the Wisconsin Administrative Code. These PDF files include all permanent rules in force, including all tables and graphics.

The HTML Wisconsin Administrative Code presented on this website is an exact reproduction of the content, except for certain tables and graphics noted in those files, but not the format, of the LRB computer files used to create, maintain, and store the content of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Under s. 889.01, stats., “(e)lectronic documents purporting to be published by the legislative reference bureau under . . . (s.) 35.93 as copies of Wisconsin’s . . . administrative rules are prima facie evidence that they are such publications as they purport to be and are correct copies of such statutes, legislative acts, and administrative rules.” The PDF files on this site are the complete administrative rules they are represented to be, while the HTML files are the complete administrative rules they are represented to be, except for tables or graphic images excluded from those files as specifically noted within the text of the files, and those files may be cited accordingly.

A user can switch from viewing a chapter as an HTML file to viewing the same code chapter as a PDF file by clicking on the “references number” and details icons that appear to the left of each unit of statute text. There is no way to readily switch from a PDF view to the same code in an HTML view.

The HTML and PDF versions of the administrative code are both fully hypertext linked. Links in the HTML code to locations within the Legislature’s searchable database will take the user to the location of the exact citation in another HTML view. When “View documents as PDF when available” is checked in the Preferences menu, a link in a PDF view takes the user to the page in the PDF file where the citation is located, but not to the exact location of the cite. When “View documents as PDF when available” is not checked in the Preferences menu, a link in a PDF view takes the user to the location of the exact citation in an HTML view.

If a link will take a user to document outside the legislature’s searchable database the user will receive a warning that the user is leaving the legislature’s website. The user may, however, deselect “Warn when leaving this site” in the preferences menu. Documents outside will be opened in a new browser window unless “Open external links in new windows (or tabs)” is deselected in the preferences menu.

Beginning in January 2015, **in HTML files only**, whenever a chapter is affected by an emergency rule that is in effect, and may supercede the text to of the chapter, a warning will appear

at the top of each view indicating the existence of the emergency rule and providing a link to the text of the rule. Current technology does not allow the insertion of the warning in PDF files.

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